

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION**

Please replace the paragraph starting on page 13, line 27 with the following paragraph:

-- Those skilled in the art should readily appreciate that programs defining the functions of the disclosed cryptographic system and method for providing blinded encryption and decryption can be implemented in software and delivered to a computer system for execution in many forms; including, but not limited to: (a) information permanently stored on non-writable storage media (e.g. read only memory devices within a computer such as ROM or CD-ROM disks readable by a computer I/O attachment); or (b) information stored on writable storage media (e.g. floppy disks and hard drives); ~~or (c) information conveyed to a computer through communication media for example using baseband signaling or broadband signaling techniques, including carrier wave signaling techniques, such as over computer or telephone networks via a modem.~~ In addition, while the illustrative embodiments may be implemented in computer software, the functions within the illustrative embodiments may alternatively be embodied in part or in whole using hardware components such as Application Specific Integrated Circuits, Field Programmable Gate Arrays, or other hardware, or in some combination of hardware components and software components. --